

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3627

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USCINCEUR

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BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, IZ, SA

SUBJ: SYRIA ANNOUNCES DECISION TO INCREASE EUPHRATES WATERS
REACHING IRAQ

1. SYRIAN PRESS JUNE 4 REPORTED FOLLOWING SARG ANNOUNCE-
MENT: "IN VIEW OF EFFORTS EXERTED BY SAUDI ARABIA AND
OF NEED OF IRAQI PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME WHEN
EUPHRATES WATERS DECREASING, SYRIAN GOVT HAS DECIDED
MEET NEEDS OF IRAQ FROM ITS OWN SHARE OF WATER. REGARD-
LESS OF POSITION OF REGIME IN IRAQ, SYRIAN GOVT ANTICIPATES
THAT DECISION WILL BE USEFUL IN REACHING PERMANENT AGREE-
MENT ON PARTITION OF EUPHRATES WATERS WITHIN VERY SHORT
PERIOD."

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2. COLUMNISTS IN AL-BAATH AND AL-THAWRAH STRESSED

THAT DECISION TO RELEASE MORE WATER TO IRAQ, "EVEN
THOUGH WE NEED EVERY DROP," WAS NOT RESULT OF IRAQI
PRESSURE. RATHER "SYRIA HAS GIVEN IRAQI REGIME
OPPORTUNITY FOR PERMANENT AGREEMENT ON PARTITION OF
WATERS." COLUMNISTS EMPHASIZE "DISTINCTION BETWEEN
OUR PEOPLE IN IRAQ AND BAGHDAD RULERS WHO STAND AS
BARRIER PREVENTING OUR IRAQI PEOPLE FROM THEIR MAIN
BATTLE AGAINST ZIONIST ENEMY."

3. PERHAPS TO EMPHASIZE DISTINCTION, ANOTHER FRONT
PAGE ARTICLE IN JUNE 4 PRESS REPORTED PUBLICATION
OF PAMPHLET BY "IRAQI NATIONAL ASSEMBLAGE (TAJAMMU)"
DESCRIBING "VARIOUS METHODS OF SAVAGE TERROR PRACTICED
BY BAGHDAD REGIME."

4. COMMENT: WAY IN WHICH SYRIA HAS ANNOUNCED RELEASE
OF ADDITIONAL EUPHRATES WATER SUGGESTS THAT PROPAGANDA
CAMPAIGN AGAINST IRAQI REGIME IS NOT OVER AND THAT
CLIMATE STILL NOT PROPITIOUS FOR OVERALL SETTLEMENT
OF PROBLEM. FONMIN KHADDAM'S JUNE 2 TRIP TO RIYADH
MAY HAVE BEEN MADE FOR PURPOSE GIVING SAUDIS ADVANCE
NOTICE OF DECISION AND ALLOWING THEM AS PREFERRED
MEDIATORS TO SHARE CREDIT FOR SYRIAN ACTION.
PELLETREAU

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